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Advisory Announcement

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KODIAK COMMERCIAL HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY UPDATE #03

The department flew an aerial survey of the eastside of Kodiak Island on March 30. Survey conditions were good but visibility was marginal. Herring schools were observed in most eastside bays along with whales, birds and large groups of sea lions. No spawn was documented. Poor weather conditions prevented a flight of the westside of Kodiak Island and Afognak Island. The next aerial survey is scheduled for Friday, April 2.

An Advisory Announcement was issued March 15 describing open areas, guideline harvest levels, and fishing periods. The *R/V K-Hi-C* will now be conducting surveys in the Sitkalidak Strait area. Herring fishermen interested in contacting the *R/V K-Hi-C* on the fishing grounds should use VHF channel 6 or Sat dispatch 7412.

GHLs and maps of open sections are available at the Kodiak office and in the herring sac roe fishery harvest strategy for the 2021 season. Fishermen are urged to check with their market and test their catch prior to landing herring. Determining if size or roe quality meets processor standards is the responsibility of fishermen and industry. It is anticipated that many small and green fish will be present on the grounds during the initial open fishing periods. Recent fishery information may be obtained by calling the Department's message phone at 486-4559.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.